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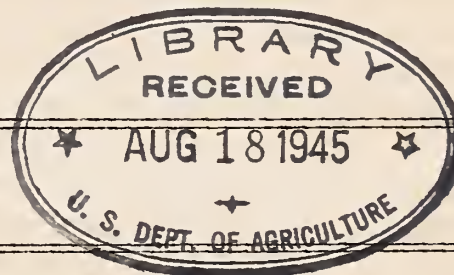
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release:-
January 10, 1940
3:00 P. M. (E.T.)

GENERAL CROP REPORT AS OF JANUARY 1, 1940

The Crop Reporting Board of the Agricultural Marketing Service makes the following report from data furnished by crop correspondents, field statisticians, and cooperating State agencies.

UNITED STATES



GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS ON JANUARY 1

CROP	Average 1929-33		1939		1940	
	Percent <u>1</u> /	1,000 bushels	Percent <u>1</u> /	1,000 bushels	Percent <u>1</u> /	1,000 bushels
Corn for grain.....	68.3	1,356,179	79.0	1,819,710	81.8	1,950,814
Wheat.....	28.7	216,486	30.1	280,088	31.7	238,985
Oats.....	60.6	632,724	65.1	695,695	63.5	594,684

1/ Percent of previous year's crop.

APPROVED:

GROVER B. HILL,

ACTING SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

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GENERAL CROP REPORT AS OF JANUARY 1, 1940

On January 1 farm stocks of corn, including corn sealed under Government loans, were much above the 1929-38 average, and stocks of wheat were somewhat above average. Due to low production, stocks of oats were a little below average.

If the estimated stocks of corn and oats are combined and allowance is made for probable supplies of barley and grain sorghums, the total stocks of feed grains on farms on January 1 appear to have been only about two percent larger than at this season last year and about 2 percent less than at the beginning of 1933 but substantially heavier than in other recent years. Due in part to the larger numbers of livestock than a year ago and to liberal feeding during the fall the grain has been fed or moved from the farms at about a normal rate for a year of large supplies. The disappearance of feed grains from farms between October 1 and January 1 was nearly 17 percent greater than during the same period a year ago, but this disappearance included the corn which was delivered to the Government during this period under corn loan provisions.

Reports from individual farms showing the quantities of hay produced last year and supplies still on hand appear to show about a normal rate of disappearance in the Northeast but rather light feeding in the central and western States where the mild and open fall permitted use of stalk fields, pastures and ranges much later than usual. Hay supplies appear to be rather low in parts of the northeast where prices are sharply higher than a year ago and there are some local shortages from Wyoming south to Oklahoma, but supplies are above average in proportion to livestock numbers in most other parts of the country and the average price is still abnormally low in comparison with the prices of cattle and sheep. In North Dakota the average price received by farmers for hay has recently been reported as \$3.30 per ton, almost the lowest State average on record except for a few years in the late 90's.

The unusually mild weather that prevailed over most of the country during December favored the production of both milk and eggs. On the farms reporting on January 1 both milk production and egg production per 100 hens were the highest on record for that date. With 1 percent more milk per cow reported than a year ago and with the number of cows apparently increasing, milk production on January 1 appears to have been about 2 percent above the high level of production at that time last year indicating slightly more than the average winter supply per capita. Egg production on January 1 was about 9 percent over the exceptionally high production a year ago and as the trend during recent years has been towards increased egg production during the winter months, the production indicated for January 1 this year is about 40 percent over the 1929-38 average for this date. Production has been so heavy that the average price which farmers received for eggs in December was the lowest for that season in more than 30 years.

The abnormally dry weather during the fall and until late in December prevented late growth of range grass and on January 1 the average condition

of western ranges was as low as at that season in any of the last 16 years except just after the great drought of 1934. However, the mild open fall weather permitted ranchers in northern States to conserve hay so that supplies now appear quite generally sufficient with rather large stocks in some areas. Recent rains and snows have necessitated heavier feeding in the North but have relieved the stock water shortage and have markedly improved prospects for winter growth of ranges and pastures in the Southwest and on the Pacific Coast.

CORN: Stocks of corn on farms January 1, 1940 were 1,930,814,000 bushels, the largest since January 1 stocks were first reported in 1927. Stocks on farms a year ago were 1,819,710,000 bushels. The 10-year (1929-38) average is 1,356,179,000 bushels. Farm stocks as of January 1 are equal to 81.8 percent of the 1939 production of corn for grain as compared with stocks of 79.0 percent of the 1938 crop on January 1, 1939. The January 1 average is 68.3 percent. The estimates relate to total stocks on farms, including carry-over of previous crops and corn under seal.

January 1 stocks of corn were unusually heavy in the Corn Belt where large stocks were carried over from the 1938 crop. This is especially true in Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota where sealing of the 1938 corn on government loan was most extensive. In Iowa the January 1 stocks were 3 percent greater than the 1939 production of corn for grain in that State. In the North and South Atlantic States, stocks were above average but somewhat less than those of a year ago. In the South Central and Western States, stocks were considerably below either those of last year or the 10-year average.

Farm disappearance during the past quarter (October 1-January 1) was 984,842,000 bushels, the heaviest since 1927 when disappearance for the corresponding quarter amounted to 895,783,000 bushels. Disappearance during the October 1-January 1 quarter a year ago was 836,749,000 bushels. The 10-year average disappearance for this period is 793,885,000 bushels. The heavy disappearance during the past quarter largely reflects the movement from farms of corn of the 1938 crop taken out of government seal, as well as the increased feeding to livestock.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of wheat on farms January 1, 1940, were 238,985,000 bushels. This includes wheat held on farms under loans. The quantitative stocks were 15 percent lower than the 280,088,000 bushels on farms a year earlier, but were about 10 percent larger than the 10-year (1929-38) average January 1 stocks of 216,486,000 bushels.

In percent of the previous year's crop, farm stocks this January 1 were 31.7 percent. This is a larger percentage stocks than a year ago, or than the average, when the percentages were 30.1 and 28.7 percent, respectively.

The disappearance of wheat from farms during the period October 1, 1939, to January 1, 1940 was 99,673,000 bushels. This is a relatively small disappearance compared with the quantity moved from farms in the fall quarter a year earlier when disappearance was 120,388,000 bushels. The 10-year average disappearance is 123,862,000 bushels.

OATS STOCKS: Farm stocks of oats on January 1, 1940 amounted to 594,684,000 bushels or 63.5 percent of the 1939 production, which compared with stocks of 695,695,000 bushels on January 1, 1939 and the 10-year average (1929-38) stocks of 632,724,000 bushels. The disappearance of oats from farms during the quarter, October 1 to January 1, was 168,663,000 bushels and was practically the same as during the same period a year ago but was nearly 16 percent less than the 10-year average disappearance of 201,488,000 bushels.

CITRUS FRUITS: Total United States orange production for the 1939-40 season is indicated to be slightly above the estimate of a month ago, due to increased prospects for navel and miscellaneous varieties in California, and an increase in prospective production in Texas. The total crop is now placed at 78,564,000 boxes. This indicated production is nearly as large as last season's record crop of 78,863,000 boxes, and is 46 percent above the 10-year (1928-37) average of 53,785,000 boxes.

The Florida orange crop is placed at 35,900,000 boxes, compared with 33,900,000 boxes last season. Rail and boat shipments of Florida oranges through January 6 totalled 13,585 cars. This movement was the largest of record for that State for this period, and exceeded last year's record shipments for the same period by 3 percent. Production in California is estimated to be 39,080,000 boxes, compared with 41,152,000 boxes in 1938-39. Harvest of navel and miscellaneous varieties is advancing rapidly in northern and central California. The proportion of desirable sizes is reported to be average or better. Shipments of these varieties from the northern and central part of the State, through January 6, were 14 percent greater than shipments to the same date last year. Harvest of navels in southern California, where the greater portion of the crop is produced, started during December, but the crop in this section of the State is not yet moving in large volume.

Production of grapefruit for the 1939-40 season is indicated to be 36,600,000 boxes, which is 16 percent less than last year's record crop of 43,714,000 boxes, but nearly double the 10-year (1928-37) average of 18,923,000 boxes. Production in Florida is placed at 17,100,000 boxes, compared with 23,600,000 boxes last season. Rail and boat shipments through January 6 were 28 percent less than movement during the same period last season. Production in Texas is indicated to be 15,200,000 boxes, compared with 15,670,000 boxes in 1938-39. Rail and boat shipments through January 6 were about 8 percent less than for the same period last season, but, truck movement was considerably greater than last year.

Production of California lemons for the current marketing season is estimated to be 10,650,000 boxes. Production in 1938-39 totalled 11,322,000 boxes,--the largest of record, and the 10-year (1928-37) average was 7,881,000 boxes.

Rainfall was deficient during December in nearly all important citrus producing areas. In Florida, lack of sufficient moisture until late in December retarded sizing, and caused increased dropping in some groves. In Texas, rainfall was light during December. Shipments to date have included a larger percentage of small sizes than last year. Most trees are still holding fruit well, and very little dropping has been reported. In California, weather was unseasonably dry during December. However, rainfall occurred over northern and central California during the first few days of January. Rains are needed in southern California, but because of the heavy rains of last September groves in this section have not suffered materially to date.

MILK PRODUCTION: During the month of December milk production in the United States increased about as usual, and on January 1, 1940 the quantity of milk produced on farms was some 2 percent higher than at the beginning of 1939. In herds kept by crop correspondents, milk production per cow averaged about 1 percent greater than a year ago and the number of milk cows is believed to have increased in about the same proportion. The resulting total milk production represents an all-time high for January 1 but in relation to consuming population indicates a per capita supply only about 2 percent above the 1929-38 average for that date.

Moderate temperatures and little snow in the first three weeks of December were very favorable for milk production in the northern and central portions of the country. On the other hand the lack of moisture during the early part of the month reduced available pasturage in some of the Southern States. Feed supplies on farms are generally plentiful and prices of dairy products appear to have held up well at the turn of the year. In a limited number of the more important milk producing States for which monthly records are available, grain feeding on January 1 appears to have been unusually heavy for that season of the year.

In New York, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, and in 6 of the 11 Western States milk production per cow on January 1 was reported the highest for that date in the 16 years of record, while the average for the country as a whole was the second highest. Production per cow fell below the 10-year average for January 1 in only 7 States, 5 of which were in the lower Mississippi Valley or closely adjacent.

For the United States as a whole, the production of milk per cow on January 1 in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 12.46 pounds compared with 12.33 pounds on the same date a year ago and an average of 11.84 pounds for January 1 in the period 1929-38. In these herds 67.4 percent of the milk cows were reported in production compared with a range of 64.0 percent to 67.7 percent in the previous 15 years.

CROP REPORTING BOARD

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		Washington, D. C.,
CROP REPORT	AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE	January 10, 1940
as of	CROP REPORTING BOARD	3:00 P. M. (E.T.)
January 1, 1940		

CORN FOR GRAIN: STOCKS ON FARMS JANUARY 1

STATE	Percent of previous year's crop			Quantity		
	Average	1939	1940	Average	1939	1940
	1929-38			1929-38		
				1,000 bushels		
Me.	62	61	59	58	73	92
N. H.	67	67	61	94	110	75
Vt.	63	63	62	232	252	198
Mass.	76	72	72	289	219	202
R. I.	77	75	80	55	58	66
Conn.	75	71	78	387	281	335
N. Y.	71	71	70	3,383	4,755	4,361
N. J.	74	84	71	4,232	4,916	3,912
Pa.	70	74	73	27,660	34,379	32,669
Ohio	64	71	71	77,747	104,654	114,878
Ind.	66	75	72	93,064	122,231	147,504
Ill.	76	88	88	217,220	324,601	355,876
Mich.	65	75	79	19,774	32,906	35,904
Wis.	56	70	68	16,616	29,511	27,236
Minn.	58	80	84	55,784	98,579	140,391
Iowa	71	91	103	243,350	412,070	496,019
Mo.	73	81	82	68,618	85,553	97,195
N. Dak.	45	48	47	940	1,523	1,563
S. Dak.	67	78	86	24,169	23,492	34,073
Nebr.	90	87	110	102,473	88,231	82,111
Kans.	110	68	69	44,336	26,438	19,977
Del.	73	75	74	2,761	3,023	3,004
Md.	72	71	73	10,454	12,452	12,588
Va.	67	71	68	20,333	22,951	23,232
W. Va.	63	59	62	7,237	6,973	8,111
N. C.	71	73	69	28,400	32,747	32,091
S. C.	72	73	69	15,152	19,190	17,239
Ga.	74	73	69	28,217	38,113	24,926
Fla.	63	65	51	4,051	5,248	2,942
Ky.	64	70	65	39,023	51,124	44,834
Tenn.	66	69	62	38,726	46,240	31,930
Ala.	72	75	68	28,342	36,676	22,644
Miss.	69	73	65	24,832	35,507	22,376
Ark.	67	62	61	19,335	21,565	18,929
La.	64	65	63	12,652	17,021	14,232
Okla.	53	59	46	18,597	19,966	11,946
Tex.	53	57	53	43,629	42,180	35,972
Mont.	49	78	53	174	856	463
Idaho	60	81	82	507	708	718
Wyo.	66	81	77	603	1,264	665
Colo.	64	78	59	9,095	7,571	3,745
N. Mex.	64	76	70	1,650	1,639	1,509
Ariz.	52	66	65	186	257	127
Utah	44	55	42	87	114	66
Nev.	49	60	71	13	19	21
Wash.	50	59	48	212	248	199
Oreg.	50	55	60	475	463	558
Calif.	64	53	80	950	763	1,110
U. S.	68.3	79.0	81.8	1,356,179	1,819,710	1,930,814

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CROP REPORT
as of
January 1, 1940

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
CROP REPORTING BOARD

Washington, D. C.,
January 10, 1940
3:00 P.M. (E.T.)

OATS: STOCKS ON FARMS JANUARY 1

State	Percent of previous year's crop			Quantity		
	Average	1939	1940	Average	1939	1940
	1929-38			1929-38		
	Thousand bushels					
Me.	72	74	71	3,114	2,868	3,265
N.H.	70	78	60	200	225	155
Vt.	67	66	64	1,244	1,146	1,204
Mass.	68	75	63	113	153	146
R.I.	61	60	70	39	36	43
Conn.	65	60	76	127	108	133
N.Y.	70	71	69	16,205	18,877	17,806
N.J.	64	61	58	858	747	731
Pa.	65	66	63	16,920	20,230	16,553
Ohio	60	64	62	29,022	23,676	20,553
Ind.	56	62	61	26,939	21,117	15,387
Ill.	61	66	62	74,247	73,701	57,995
Mich.	67	71	71	26,090	50,416	30,326
Wis.	64	67	64	49,648	50,990	45,448
Minn.	64	72	68	85,177	92,664	103,123
Iowa	63	71	69	119,242	148,404	106,824
Mo.	61	63	66	20,938	29,303	27,007
N.Dak.	82	75	78	21,320	23,474	27,532
S.Dak.	92	70	71	28,731	32,844	31,190
Nebr.	71	64	83	31,600	35,249	17,078
Kans.	55	56	51	17,904	19,977	10,798
Del.	61	50	37	55	48	32
Md.	61	47	56	833	617	632
Va.	56	45	45	1,299	890	720
W.Va.	66	66	68	1,452	1,192	993
N.C.	33	38	35	1,291	2,115	1,992
S.C.	17	25	21	1,503	2,662	2,418
Ga.	16	18	21	1,018	1,725	1,879
Fla.	13	13	18	16	18	22
Ky.	49	54	48	1,119	737	457
Tenn.	44	36	38	706	612	549
Ala.	17	20	21	339	634	596
Miss.	19	12	22	178	212	602
Ark.	41	33	31	1,072	846	900
La.	24	20	35	177	270	582
Okla.	49	54	51	12,406	14,821	10,768
Tex.	47	48	39	16,331	17,722	11,212
Mont.	75	79	84	4,491	7,252	6,722
Idaho	59	62	56	2,834	3,047	3,490
Wyo.	69	69	88	1,936	2,124	2,013
Colo.	67	69	50	3,042	3,487	2,102
N.Mex.	45	45	24	268	297	153
Ariz.	37	35	10	106	91	23
Utah	62	53	62	874	579	608
Nev.	55	70	60	53	196	147
Wash.	58	50	53	4,558	3,358	5,947
Oreg.	51	50	46	4,504	3,362	5,394
Calif.	20	17	11	585	576	434
U. S.	60.6	65.1	63.5	632,724	695,695	594,684

CITRUS FRUITS

CROP	Condition Jan. 1 1/				Production 2/	
and	Average				Indicated	
STATE	1938	1939	1940	1928-37	1938	1939
	Percent				Thousand boxes	
ORANGES:						
California, all	78	78	72	34,715	41,152	39,080
Valencias	77	76	74	19,380	23,245	23,680
Navels & Misc.	80	81	70	15,335	17,907	15,400
Florida, all	78	80	79	17,842	33,900	35,900
Early and Midseason	--	--	79	3/ 11,120	17,500	19,100
Valencias	--	--	78	3/ 7,180	13,000	13,900
Tangerines	54	79	55	3/ 2,280	3,400	2,900
Satsumas	62	73	67	---	---	---
Texas	70	83	71	677	2,815	2,730
Arizona	79	71	68	180	430	460
Alabama	80	80	75	78	96	75
Mississippi	84	100	67	39	85	59
Louisiana	68	94	62	255	385	260
7 States 4/	78	79	75	53,785	78,863	78,564
GRAPEFRUIT:						
Florida, all	56	82	54	12,838	23,600	17,100
Seedless	--	--	62	3/ 4,480	7,900	6,900
Other	--	--	50	3/ 9,540	15,700	10,200
Texas	66	86	63	3,538	15,670	15,200
Arizona	88	76	68	1,003	2,700	2,500
California	70	76	71	1,544	1,744	1,800
4 States 4/	62	83	59	18,923	43,714	36,600
LEMONS:						
California 4/	64	81	74	7,881	11,322	10,650
LIMES:						
Florida	67	74	65	20	95	5/ 95

- 1/ Condition reported on January 1 refers to crop from bloom of previous calendar year.
- 2/ Relates to crop from bloom of year shown. In California the picking season adopted extends from November 1 to October 31. In other States the season begins about September 1. For some States, in certain years, production includes some quantities donated to charity and/or eliminated on account of market conditions.
- 3/ Short-time average.
- 4/ Net content of boxes varies. In California and Arizona the approximate average for oranges is 70 lb. net and grapefruit 60 lb.; in Florida and other States oranges 90 lb. and grapefruit 80 lb.; California lemons, about 76 lb. net.
- 5/ Dec. 1 indicated production.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS 1/

State	January 1 (Avg.) 1929-38	January 1 1938	January 1 1939	January 1 1940
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Maine	12.5	12.8	12.1	12.8
New Hampshire	15.0	13.3	13.2	15.0
Vermont	12.8	12.1	12.1	12.6
Massachusetts	17.1	17.0	16.6	17.4
Connecticut	16.4	16.6	16.1	17.2
New York	14.8	14.8	15.8	16.2
New Jersey	18.2	13.5	13.5	18.8
Pennsylvania	15.3	15.4	15.3	15.7
North Atlantic	15.09	13.15	15.49	15.76
Ohio	13.6	13.4	13.5	13.8
Indiana	12.2	12.1	12.4	12.8
Illinois	12.8	13.4	13.4	14.0
Michigan	15.2	15.0	15.7	16.4
Wisconsin	14.1	13.9	13.8	14.5
East North Central	13.68	13.57	13.72	14.38
Minnesota	14.6	14.4	15.7	15.7
Iowa	12.4	13.1	13.3	13.4
Missouri	8.0	7.9	8.4	8.0
North Dakota	9.8	9.5	10.1	10.5
South Dakota	9.7	9.2	10.6	10.0
Nebraska	11.6	10.9	12.8	12.5
Kansas	12.1	12.0	13.7	12.2
West North Central	11.49	11.40	12.42	12.23
Maryland	13.3	12.4	14.2	14.2
Virginia	9.5	9.7	10.0	9.6
West Virginia	9.1	9.3	9.2	9.1
North Carolina	10.1	10.7	10.7	10.8
South Carolina	9.4	10.1	9.8	9.9
South Atlantic	9.75	10.16	10.31	10.13
Kentucky	9.2	9.6	9.8	9.6
Tennessee	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.8
Mississippi	6.4	6.2	6.7	5.6
Arkansas	7.1	7.8	6.6	6.9
Oklahoma	9.1	9.7	9.9	8.7
Texas	7.9	8.1	8.2	8.9
South Central	8.05	8.33	8.25	8.01
Montana	11.0	11.1	12.5	12.3
Idaho	14.9	15.0	15.9	16.4
Wyoming	10.3	10.2	10.7	11.1
Colorado	11.7	12.0	12.4	13.9
Washington	14.8	14.9	15.5	15.7
Oregon	13.3	13.2	14.2	13.8
California	15.8	16.3	16.3	18.0
West	13.30	13.50	14.18	14.87
UNITED STATES	11.84	11.88	12.33	12.46

1/ Averages represent the reported daily milk production of herds kept by reporters divided by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry) in these herds. Figures for New England States are based on combined returns from Crop and Special Dairy reporters and are weighted by counties. Figures for other States, regions, and U. S. are based on returns from Crop reporters only. The regional averages are based in part on records of less important dairy States not shown separately, as follows: North Atlantic, Rhode Island; South Atlantic, Delaware, Georgia, and Florida; South Central, Alabama, Louisiana; Western, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada.

POULTRY AND EGG PRODUCTION REPORT

New record high levels of egg production per layer and per farm flock for January 1 were established on January 1, 1940. Producers' egg prices on December 15 were the lowest for that date in 30 years and chicken prices were considerably below the 10-year average. The size of the farm flock has not increased as much as was expected earlier in the season because of those unfavorable chicken and egg prices, which have been accompanied by rising feed prices.

The average number of eggs laid on January 1 per 100 layers in farm flocks was 26.3 compared with 24.6 a year ago and the 10-year (1929-38) average of 18.7. The January 1, 1940 layings for the United States exceeded the previous high of last year by about 7 percent. In the Western States, the rate of layings was about 11 percent above January 1, 1939, in the East North Central States about 9 percent, in the West North Central and South Atlantic States about 8 percent, and in the North Atlantic States 4 percent above; and in the South Central States, the same as a year ago.

The indicated total egg production on January 1 was the largest of record, being about 9 percent above a year ago and about 40 percent above the 10-year (1929-38) average. Compared with a year ago the increase in the West North Central States was about 14 percent, in the East North Central States about 13 percent, in the Western States about 11 percent, in the South Atlantic States about 8 percent, and in the North Atlantic and South Central States about 3 percent. Egg production in all geographic areas exceeded the 10-year average from 28 to 58 percent. Although the number of layers per farm flock on January 1 was less than 1 percent above the 10-year average, the increased rate of lay was sufficient to bring total egg production about 40 percent above the 10-year average. Increased egg production during recent years has been due mostly to the increased rate of lay during the fall and winter months.

The average number of hens and pullets of laying age in farm flocks belonging to crop reporters on January 1 was 85.2 compared with 82.8 a year ago and the 10-year (1929-38) average of 84.5. Compared with a year ago the increase in layers was about 5 percent in the West North Central States, about 4 percent in the South Central States, about 3 percent in the East North Central States and about 2 percent in the Western States. There was no change in the South Atlantic States but a decrease of about 1 percent in the highly commercial North Atlantic area. Compared with the 10-year average increases were shown in all geographic areas except the West North Central, which remained about the same.

For the United States the seasonal increase in the number of layers during the four months from September 1 to January 1 was about 37 percent compared with about 38 percent during the same period last year, and the 10-year average of about 33 percent. The seasonal increases were above the 10-year average in all geographic areas, but were not as large as expectations early in the season based on young chickens on hand June 1.

Holdings of young chickens on January 1, including pullets and other chickens, averaged 83.0 per farm flock compared with 80.3 a year earlier, a gain of 3.4 percent. The gain was most pronounced, about 11 percent, in the

North Central States, and about 5 percent in the South Central area, with a very slight gain in the North Atlantic States. Decreases are shown in the Western and South Atlantic areas of 5 percent and 1 percent respectively.

The total number of pullets on hand January 1 was about 2 percent greater than a year earlier. Pullets of laying age were about 3 percent greater than a year ago, while the number of pullets not yet of laying age was the same as last year. Hens 1 year old and over show a gain of about 3 percent, while other chickens show again of about 10 percent. The proportion of hens and of all pullets in the farm flock on January 1 was 30 percent and 70 percent respectively, about the same as a year earlier. All chickens in farm flocks on January 1 showed a gain of about 3 percent compared with a year ago.

Producers' prices of eggs per dozen on December 15 averaged 20.5 cents, the lowest for this date in 30 years, a drop of 5.3 cents per dozen since November 15, the largest drop of record for this period. The December 15 price is lower than the September 15 price for the first time of record.

Producers' chicken prices on December 15 averaged 11.7 cents per pound compared with 12.4 cents on Nov. 15, a more than average seasonal decline. Chicken prices averaged 13.6 cents on December 15, 1938, the same as the 10-year average.

The price per hundred pounds of feedstuffs incorporated in the average poultry ration during December was \$1.14 compared with \$.92 a year earlier and the 10-year (1929-38) average of \$1.16.

During December it required 5.57 dozen eggs to buy 100 pounds of poultry ration compared with 3.30 a year earlier and the 10-year average of 4.04. It required 9.76 pounds of chicken to buy 100 pounds of ration during December compared with 6.76 during December 1938 and a 10-year average of 8.65

NUMBER OF HENS PER FLOCK, AND OF EGGS LAID PER HEN AND PER
FLOCK, FIRST DAY OF MONTH 1/

Geographic Division	Layers per flock <u>2</u> /			Eggs per 100 layers			Eggs per flock		
	: Preceding year :			: Preceding year :			: Preceding year :		
	: Nov. 1	: Dec. 1	: Jan. 1	: Nov. 1	: Dec. 1	: Jan. 1	: Nov. 1	: Dec. 1	: Jan. 1
<hr/>									
NORTH ATL.									
1929-38(Av.)	87.3	92.9	96.9	19.5	20.6	25.8	16.8	19.1	25.1
1939	88.7	96.3	93.4	26.8	27.5	32.8	23.3	26.6	32.3
1940	88.5	<u>4</u> /92.9	97.6	27.2	28.2	34.1	24.0	26.2	33.3
NORTH CENT.									
1929-38(Av.)	96.6	107.1	114.0	16.0	12.7	16.5	13.6	14.9	19.2
1939	93.4	102.4	110.4	20.4	17.8	23.2	19.4	18.9	26.1
1940	98.4	<u>4</u> /108.8	115.0	19.8	20.3	25.2	19.3	<u>4</u> /12.7	29.6
SOUTH ATL.									
1929-38(Av.)	52.9	56.2	58.9	19.9	13.2	20.7	10.6	10.2	14.2
1939	53.3	56.0	59.9	23.9	23.3	25.9	12.7	13.1	15.5
1940	54.8	<u>4</u> /56.9	59.9	24.8	23.8	28.0	13.7	<u>4</u> /13.7	16.8
SOUTH CENT.									
1929-38(Av.)	57.9	61.2	65.0	19.9	15.6	17.7	11.6	10.8	11.6
1939	57.5	60.6	64.6	24.8	19.4	22.3	13.2	11.9	14.4
1940	59.3	<u>4</u> /62.4	65.8	21.6	<u>4</u> /13.5	22.3	13.0	<u>4</u> /11.8	14.8
WESTERN									
1929-38(Av.)	66.6	70.8	73.2	22.2	18.8	23.2	14.4	12.8	16.4
1939	67.3	71.1	72.6	25.5	21.1	27.1	16.9	14.4	19.6
1940	67.5	<u>4</u> /70.4	73.7	26.5	24.2	30.2	17.0	<u>4</u> /13.1	21.8
UNITED STATES									
1929-38(Av.)	73.8	79.8	84.5	18.1	15.2	18.7	13.5	13.3	15.8
1939	72.5	73.0	82.3	22.3	19.9	24.6	16.3	15.9	20.4
1940	75.1	<u>4</u> /80.8	85.2	23.0	21.5	26.3	16.6	<u>4</u> /17.3	22.2

1/ Covering about 20,000 flocks owned by Crop Reporters. These flocks are larger and better cared for than on the average farm, the difference being greatest in the South. Flocks of more than 400 layers not included in these averages.

2/ Including hens and pullets of laying age.

3/ January 1940 figures are preliminary.

4/ Revised.

PRICES OF EGGS, CHICKENS AND TURKEYS
AND OF FEED FOR POULTRY

United States Average mid-month prices to farmers at local markets

Prices of 100 pounds of feed used in a farm poultry ration*

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1928-37(Av.)	128.9	130.7	131.1	135.0	137.6	136.2	140.9	142.4	140.2	129.2	121.9	122.4
1938	144.7	114.2	111.3	110.3	108.6	105.9	105.4	95.1	94.6	88.4	88.0	92.0
1939	98.2	97.8	96.6	100.8	106.7	105.0	100.8	95.0	115.5	107.1	109.4	114.2

Prices received for one dozen eggs

1928-37(Av.)	25.9	31.6	18.0	17.4	17.5	17.4	18.7	20.6	23.9	27.0	31.1	30.2
1938	21.6	16.4	16.2	15.9	17.6	18.2	19.9	21.0	24.9	27.1	29.0	27.9
1939	18.8	16.7	16.0	15.5	15.2	14.9	16.5	17.5	20.6	22.9	25.8	20.5

Prices received for one pound of chicken

1928-37(Av.)	15.1	15.4	15.7	16.4	16.3	16.1	15.8	15.7	16.0	15.4	14.9	14.7
1938	16.7	16.0	15.9	16.2	16.1	15.7	15.0	14.2	14.3	13.6	13.6	13.6
1939	14.0	14.2	14.3	14.4	13.9	13.4	13.7	13.0	13.6	12.7	12.4	11.7

Prices received for one pound of turkey

1928-37(Av.)	19.3									17.9	18.9	18.5
1938	17.5	17.7	17.2	17.0	16.4	15.6	15.7	15.0	16.0	16.5	17.1	18.4
1939	18.3	17.5	17.6	16.9	15.6	14.7	14.4	14.3	15.4	15.3	16.0	15.6

*Price of poultry ration is computed on the basis of prices received by farmers for grain and paid by them for bran and tankage.

QUANTITY OF POULTRY PRODUCTS REQUIRED
TO BUY 100 POUNDS OF POULTRY RATION

Dozens of eggs required (feed-egg ratio)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1928-37(Av.)	5.04	6.15	7.16	7.60	7.83	7.86	7.56	6.92	5.82	4.72	3.88	4.08
1938	5.31	6.96	6.87	6.94	6.17	5.82	5.30	4.53	3.80	3.26	3.03	3.30
1939	5.22	5.86	6.04	6.50	7.02	7.05	6.11	5.43	5.61	4.63	4.24	5.57

Pounds of chicken required (feed-chicken ratio)

1928-37(Av.)	8.65	8.53	8.33	8.28	8.52	8.56	9.05	9.24	8.88	8.48	8.39	8.72
1938	6.87	7.14	7.00	6.81	6.75	6.75	7.03	6.70	6.62	6.50	6.47	6.76
1939	7.01	6.89	6.76	7.00	7.68	7.84	7.36	7.31	8.49	8.43	8.82	9.76